THE SUN, WEDNESHAY DECEMBER IN THIS

THEATRIC BUT STRONG CURTAIN RAISER AT THE PRINCESS.

By Louis Tiercelin, and Balzae Might Have Inspired Him-Kyrle Bellew in the Part of an Apostate Priest Who Repents-His Sensational Death Fall.

It was nearer 8:30 than 8 o'clock last night at the Princess Theatre when the curtain ose on "The Sacrament of Judas." The following half hour the house was disturbed by late comers who were not to blame, for the new play was announced as an afterpiece and there was consequent confusion in the mind of many of the audience.

Louis Tiercelin is the author of "The Sacrament of Judas." The idea might have been born of Balzac, it was the kind of theme he delighted in subjecting to the high pressure of analytic art. It was first played in London by Forbes Robertson, who originated the part of the renegade priest, Jacques Bernez. Last night Kyrle Bellew, who evidently longs for a romantic situation, at least one more romantic than Raffles, was the citizen monk who saved his soul by shriving the soul of another, and then by sacrifloing himself in the place of the escaped aristocrat,

Count of Kervern. It seems that before he came to the humble home of Grandfather Jean at St. Michael-en-Greve, Brittany, Jacques Bernez was a young monk deprived of his priestly functions by the revolutionaries. He was a republican at heart and welcomed the change from claustral seclusion to the blare and trumpeting of a newly born nation.

and trumpeting of a newly born nation. He became a schoolmaster; he fell in love; and at the opening of the play we find him living with the old man Jean and paying court to his granddaughter Jeffik.

There is one dark spot in his blue sky—once a priest, always a priest! The oil of the Bishop's chrism has touched his forehead. He loves, but does not press his suit with the proper ardor of a layman.

An aristocrat, the outlawed owner of the domain. Count Kervern, has been secreted

An aristocrat, the outlawed owner of the domain, Count Kervern, has been secreted by his oid tenant Jean. With true courtesy he has repaid the hospitality and risks incurred by his presence with noble interest. He seduces the girl, who loves him devotedly. The peace of the household is disturbed by the rude entrance of Chapin, a control of the Contr citizen representative from the Central Government in Paris sent to stir up matters in Brittany and search for the accursed

aristocrats.

His visit brings about the only situation in the play. To him alone Jacques tells his story and is overheard by the Count hidden behind the big chimney. When the two men are alone there is a quarrel. The ex-priest accuses the nobleman of trifling with the affections of the girl. Count Kerrern denies this, but is denounced by Jacques. The crux is this: Can an apostate priest hear a confession. He has already declared that a priest, bad or good, may always exercise his ghostly functions. The Count in mortal fear of hell fire, more than physical death, confesses his crime to the very man who is his unsuccessful trival. It is thrilling though extremely theatric.

rival. It is thrilling though extremely theatric.

Then the priest becomes a good man; God softens his heart, and he helps the young couple to escape, not omitting advice as to hasty matrimony. He goes to his chamber, dons the robes of a Dominican and is shot on the staircase. Last night Mr. Bellew fell down, rolled over the stairs in a realistic fashion. He looked spiritually handsome in his ecclesiastical garb, though he acted throughout in his most artificial manner—perhaps in the right key for such a play.

Frank McCormack, the appalling burglar in "Raffles," was the one vital figure of the evening as the brutal Chapin. Frank Connors and Frank Roberts played the other masculine roles; Miss Clara Blandick was the miest Jefilk.

The good taste of the sacramental episode may be questioned by Roman Catholics. Since, however, the technique of the confession box has been spilled before the footlights, there is no reason why Henry Harland's "Yoke of the Torah" should not not be dramatized. The stage might as well ransack the Mosaic dispensation as knotty questions of the Roman Catholic liturgy.

MR. KREHBIEL ON "PARSIFAL." Mendelssohn Hall Crowded to Hear

Discourse on Wagner's Drama. E. H. Krehbiel gave a lecture on Wagner's "Parsifal" yesterday afternoon in Mendelssohn Hall. He had the assistance at the piano of Albert Hertz, the conductor

who is to direct the performances of the drama at the Metropolitan Opera House. He began by giving a clear outline of the story. Then he proceeded to show the origin of its elements, and finally of Wagner's own version. He traced with clearness and in a most interesting manner the early fables of the Grail, the histories of heroes of quests, of Kundry and her reincarnations of the sacred lance and the origin of the community of ascetics. He set before his auditors the Aryan expulsion and return formula, and showed how Parsifal was one of the personages who had the experiences, or at least some of them, always attached in the old legends to the Aryan hero. In addition to expounding the literary

sources of the drama and its religious and philosophic doctrines, Mr. Krehbiel explained the significance of the principal thematic ideas in the score, and to show how some of them were developed presented through Mr. Hertz whole scenes. Mr. Krehbiel's lecture was comprehensive and rehbiel's lecture was comprehensive and scholarly without being pedantic, and it was enlivened by some gracious touches of humor. Mr. Hertz played the musical excerpts with uncommon skill. He was especially happy in bringing out the middle voices and thus exhibiting some of those eloquent orchestral details which are generally lost in a piano performance of

News of Plays and Players.

Maeterlinck's "Monna Vanna" is to be produced at the Irving Place Theatre tonight. Miss Bertha Rocco will play the title rôle and Julius Haller, Franz Kierschner, Julius Kobler and Alexander Rottmann the principal parts.

Charles Frohman has lent William Court-

Charles Frohman has lent William Court-leigh to C. B. Dillingham for the support of Maxine Elliott in "Her Own Way." Verdi's "Othello" and Bizet's "Carmen" will be the first week's bill of the Savage English Opera Company at the West End Theatre, beginning on Monday. Lew Dockstader and his minstrels are to follow Frank Daniels in "The Office Boy" at the Victoria.

Victoria. Judge Townsend in the United States Circuit Court yesterday made permanent the injunction asked for by Hermann Fromme in behalf of the Castle Square Opera Company against Frank Moular of "The Sultan of Sulu." Under this deof The Suitan of Suita. Under this de-cision Moulan cannot play for any other management during the term of his con-tract with the Castle Square company, which has a year and a half to run.

Vaudeville Managers Dine George Kraus About one hundred members of the Eastern circuit of the Vaudeville Managers' Association of America gave a dinner and loving cup last night at the Hoffman House to George Kraus, president of the association. Judge Foster of General Sessions was toastmaster and speeches were made by Thomas F. Grady, William Sulzer and Mitchell T. Edonger

and Mitchell T. Erlanger. Moulan Can't Play With Anna Held. Frank Moulan, the actor, is still barred from playing in "Mam'selle Napoleon Anna Held. Judge Townsend in the ted States Circuit Court yesterday United States Circuit Court yesterday continued the injunction restraining him from appearing under any management other than that of the Castle Square Opera

"THE SACRAMENT OF JUDAS." NEW OPERA LIGHTING TROUBLE. Mrs. Aster Decan't Want Any Lights, Sc

There's a Break in the Parterre Display Another new problem was added to the perplexities of the management of the Metropolitan Opera House on Monday when Mrs. Astor notified the directors that she did not want any lights of any kind in her box, whatever might be done with the rest of the boxes. Mrs. Astor wrote that light of any kind gave her a headache.

It was necessary to have the current shut off from her box, although the original arrangement provided for the illumination of the parterre boxes by one current. The necessary changes were made, and on Monday night Mrs. Astor's box was in comparative darkness. The effect was not beautifying to the parterre row, as the lack of uniformity in the boxes was immediately noticeable; but stockholders have the right to do with their boxes.

diately noticeable; but stockholders have the right to do with their boxes whatever they please, so long as they do not interfere with the enjoyment of their neighbors.

The operas for the fifth week of the season will be "La Bohème" on Monday night, to be sung by Mmes. Sembrich and Seygard and MM. Caruso, Rossi, Dufriche, Campanari and Journet; "La Traviata" on Wednesday, when Signor Caruso will appear for the first time here as Alfredo, with Mmes. Sembrich and Jacoby and MM. Scotti and Bars; and on Friday, "Aida" sung by MM. Caruso, Scotti, Plançon and Journet and Mmes. Gadski and Walker.

THE NEW MISS RUSSELL'S DEBUT. To Be Made at Weber & Fields's-Frohman

Contract Cancelled. Dorothy Russell, daughter of Lillian mately she will have a part in "Capt. Bar-

mately she will have a part in "Capt. Barrington."

In private life she is Mrs. Abbott Einstein and was to have appeared this week in "The Girl From Kays" at the Herald Square Theatre. A difference of opinion between her husband and Charles Frohman as to just what she was to do in "The Girl From Kays" is said to have caused Mr. Frohman to cancel her contract.

FUR WRECKER AT THE CASINO. He's Spoiling the Girls' Boas, but They Suspect Who He May Be.

A number of the young women appearing in "Winsome Winnie" at the Casino Theatre, according to the theatrepeople, have been according to the theatrepeople, have been the victims of a fur-slashing person in the last few days. Some one cut Mazie Fol-lette's fur boa in two the other night and carried off half. The same person also slashed to runination a fur coat belonging to Paula Edwardes.

The theatre people suspect an employee of the Casino.

The Philharmonic Society.

Gustave Kogel of Frankfort, who conducted the last concert of the Philharmonio Society, will be the conductor of the third rehearsal and concert on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening. The programme will consist of Brahm's symphony in C minor, Wagner's "Eine Faust" overture, Liszt's symphonic poem, "Les Préludes," and a new suite for ylolincello and orchestra Bruno Oscar Klein. The soloist will Leo Schulz. Mr. Klein's suite was written about ten years ago, but has just been published by Simrock of Berlin. Mr. Klein is a German by birth, but has lived in America since 1878 and in this city since

Mme. Melba's Last Appearance.

Mme. Melba's last appearance will be Mme. Melba's last appearance will be made in her concert at Carnegie Hall on Friday night. She will sing "Ardon g'incensi"—otherwise the "mad scene"—from "Lucia," the other "mad scene," namely from Thomas's "Hamlet," and the valse from "Romeo et Juliette." She will have the aid of Ellison Van Hoose and other singers together with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Fritz Scheel, conductor, which will come to New York on a fast special train after giving a matinée in its home city.

COLUMBIA HOTEL BURNED. Policeman Overcome by Smoke and Two Firemen Injured.

men were injured and man was almost suffocated in a fire which destroyed the Columbia Hotel at St. George, Staten Island, yesterday afternoon... The fire broke out in a room on the third floor of the building near the chimney. All

floor of the building near the chimney. All the guests escaped.

While the building was burning some one of the employees reported that Albert C. Matisse, the proprietor, was asleep when the fire was discovered and had not got out. Policeman Roe rushed into the building through the blinding smoke and reached the proprietor's room, where he was overcome by the smoke and fell to the floor unconscious. He was where he was overcome by the smoke shut fell to the floor unconscious. He was rescued by firemen and taken to St. Vin-cent's Hospital. Matisse had left the hotel about half an hour before the fire broke

Fireman Clark, who was climbing a ladder coated with ice to get to the roof, slipped and fell on the roof of a building adjoining. He struck on his left shoulder, dislocating it. Fireman Colbrook was struck on the arm and cut by glass and debris forced out of the building by a

tream of water.

The hotel was almost completely destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$12,000.

PASTOR DAWSON TO QUIT. Hasn't Received Six Calls From Townsfolks Since He's Been Pastor.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Dec. 15.-The Rev William Vincent Dawson having made up his mind to give up the rectorship of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the vestry has accepted his resignation and agreed to let him go at his own convenience. Mr Dawson has accepted a call to St. Paul's Church at Elk Rapids, Mich. He expects to leave Plainfield before the first of the

He has had a rough road since coming from Baltimore to Plainfield about two years ago. He contends that some of his parishioners and the people of the city appear to be what they are not and that they have not treated him in a cordial manner. He also declares that during his stay in Plainfield he has not received six calls from the townsfolks and that his congregations have chiefly been composed of from the townsfolks and that his congregations have chiefly been composed of women. This he takes exception to on the ground that he is not "a woman's man."

The parishioners who disagree with Mr. Dawson say he wants to have everything his own way, even to managing the finances of the church. The Rev. W. C. Harris, a retired rector, will succeed Mr. Dawson for the present.

DUPED PRIESTS, GOES TO PRISON. Casper J. Ernst, St. Paul Banker, Sentenced

to Ten Years Imprisonment. St. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 15.-Casper J. Ernst, banker, investor and capitalist, was sentenced to-day to ten years in the penitentiary on a plea of guilty of forgery. Ernst is the owner of two business blocks in St. Paul, has conducted a banking and brokerage business here for two years and numbers among his victims seventy-five Catholic priests, who have lost money

through him.

It is estimated by the receiver appointed by the court that the Catholic priests have lost no less than \$275,000 in the purchase of forged mortgages and forged securities.

Battleship Maine Here. The battleship Maine, back from Colon,

anchored in Quarantine last night, too late JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

THE SUN received \$1 from "Alexander" yesterday for the family of Mrs. Elizabeth McGrath, who walked into the West Sixty-eighth street station on Saturday night with three children and said she was homeless and starving. The money was surned over to the Gerry society.

WOMEN HARPERS IN THE UNION

THEY'VE PAID THEIR MONEY; OTHER RULES IGNORED.

Players in the Metropolitan Orchestra Journey to a Beer Garden and Put Down Their First Quarter's Dues -Citizenship Provisions Passed By.

Mme. Tagliavia and Mme. Weill, the harpists of the Metropolitan Opera House, were made members of the Musical Mutual Protective Union yesterday and got their union cards. They now can play in the orchestra at the opera without precipitating a strike so long as they obey the rules of the union and pay their dues regularly. This they have promised to do.

The trouble between the union and Nahan Franko, manager of the orchestra, which began when the union officers served notice that the harp players who had come over from Europe would be regarded as nonunion musicians unworthy of playing with those who held union cards, was settled vesterday when the two women went up to the beer garden at Third avenue and Ninety-first street, where the union has its neadquarters.

There they received the announcement that the union had consented, after examining them upon their art, to give them union cards. The harpists didn't bubble over with thanks when they received this announcement. Each had given up \$100 to Russell, will make her stage debut some the union. Two Germans and an Italian, night this week at Weber & Fields's. Ulti- who did the same thing a week ago in order that they could play in a table d'hote restaurant, were much more profuse in their

> The union did not insist upon the rule that the two harpists declare their intention of becoming American citizens. It was said that they were rather averse to doing said that they were rather averse to doing so after their experiences. Neither did the union make them swear to uphold the union. All that was done was to call the two women into a smoke-filled room and inform them that they had passed their examination and could belong to the union. Then the women paid their first quarter's dues of \$2 and left.

rule union, said he, has a rule that candidates for membership have to be present when they are made members. We expected that these two women would be here last Tuesday, the day after they took their examination, which, of course, they passed. But they evidently thought they wouldn't have to come here again. We inpassed. But they evidently thought they wouldn't have to come here again. We informed Mr. Franko that they would have to come here before we would admit them to membership and to-day they presented themselves. They were simply told that they were members of the union and no oath was required of them. As long as they was required of them. As long as they pay their dues and obey the rules they can keep their cards."

Mr. Hannenberger said that had they been men they would have had to announce their intention of becoming citizens. "Women don't vote," one member explained.

Another rule, requiring six months' residence here, was also got around more easily than was expected. The two harpists have been here but a month this time, but both were here once before in years but both were here once before in years past. This was good enough for the union. It was decided that the two women had been residents ever since they were here before and the \$200 was saved.

Mme. Tagliavia and Mme. Welll have several sister members of the union. They play in an orchestra at a Bowery resort and were taken into the union when it joined the American Federation of Labor, some years. American Federation of Labor, some years

TWO DIE FROM WOOD ALCOHOL. A Third Is Ill and the Fourth of the Drinkers

Has Disappeared. William Riley of Bridgeport, Conn. Thomas Gray of New Britain, Conn., Daniel McCarthy and Stahl McKenna rented a room at 220 East 117th street a few days ago. They had planned a spree, and ago. They had planned a spree, and, in order to make it cheap, they bought wood alcohol. Reilly and Gray are dead, McCarthy is in the Harlem Hospital in a second condition and McKenna cannot be

found.

McCarthy went to the East 126th street McCarthy went to the East 126th etreet station at 3 o'clock yesterday morning and told the sergeant that one of his companions was dead and another dying, and that he was going crazy. He said they had diluted the wood alcohol with water and sugar. The police went to the house and found Reilly dead. Gray died as he was being carried from the ambulance into the

McKenna got frightened and left.

Skating in Prospect Park. The lakes in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, were thrown open to skaters yesterday afternoon for the first time this season. Park Commissioner Young ordered the red ball put up at 2 o'clock, after he had ascertained that the ice was about four inches thick. At 6 o'clock the crowd was ordered off and the lakes closed for the night. If the cold weather continues there will be skating every night until 10:30. Hundreds of electric lights were put up all over the lakes yesterday.

Fortnightly Dance at Delmonico's. The first of the Fortnightly dances this winter was held in the Astor Gallery at the Waldorf-Astoria last night. Frederick S. Woodruff led the cotilon. The favors comprised paper musical instruments and flags for the men and for the women vegeta-ble emery bags. There were few absentees.

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AMUSEMENTS

AMUSEMENTS.

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Sat. Mat., Dec. 19, at 2—AIDA. Gadski, Homer;
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GRAND SUNDAY CONCERT. Soloists: Weed,
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Homer; Pol Plancon, Guardabassi. Conductor, Vigna.

Mon. Evg., Dec. 21, at 8—LA BOHEME. Sembrich, Seygard; Caruso, Campanari, Journet, Conductor, Vigna.

Wed. Evg., Dec. 23, at 8—TRAVIATA. Sembrich; Caruso, Scotti, Conductor, Vigna.

Thursday Evg., Dec. 24, at 5 o'clock—1st performance of PARSIFAL. Ternina; Burgstaller, Van Rooy, Blass, Goritz (debut), Journet. Conductor, Heriz.

Fri. Evg., Dec. 25, at 8—AIDA. Gadski, Walker; Caruso, Plancon, Scotti, Muhlmann. Conductor, Vigna. Vigna.
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